



2012 Kentucky History Day Theme "Revolution, Reaction and Reform in History"

It is time to start thinking about Kentucky History Day (KHD) 2012. By competing in KHD you are becoming a better student. The skills you will develop by reading, researching, writing, analyzing and presenting a topic that you choose will translate to all of your academic subjects.

This year's theme for the junior (6th-8th grade) and senior (9th-12th grade) divisions is "Revolution, Reaction and Reform in History." As always National History Day has selected a theme that is broad enough to explore almost any topic, whether it is local, state, national or world history. Of course, Kentucky connections to this year's theme are virtually limitless.

To understand the historical importance of your topic, you must **ask questions** about time and place, cause and effect, change over time, and impact and significance. You should ask questions about why events happened and what impact the events had. What factors contributed to a revolution? Why was there a need to reform at this particular time? Why did this event cause a reaction? Regardless of the topic selected, you must do more than just describe what happened. **You must draw conclusions, basing your opinion on evidence**, about how the topic affected individuals, communities, nations and the world. Studies should include an investigation into available primary and secondary sources, analysis of the evidence, and a clear explanation of the relationship of the topic to the theme.

As you explore possible topics, think of the theme broadly. Do not be too literal. Revolutions and reforms are often reactions to particular situations or events, which may inspire other reactions. According to the American Heritage Dictionary, the word revolution means "the overthrow of one government and its replacement with another" or a "sudden or momentous change in a situation." Whether sudden or gradual, such changes often cause opposition, as some people seek to slow or even reverse them. Consequently, some topics will focus on

revolution, reaction and reform, while other topics may allow you to focus on just one or two aspects of the theme.

Revolution means different things to different people. For some, it brings to mind the American or French Revolution; to others it brings to mind the Iranian or Russian Revolution, and for others it brings to mind the Industrial Revolution or a transportation or communications revolution. Rather than attempting to analyze and document an entire revolution, you should look for more manageable topics such as ideas emerging from a particular revolution, specific events or factions within a revolution, or individuals who affected or were affected by a revolution.

Reform efforts have taken place throughout Kentucky's history. From the Shakers, to the antislavery advocates, to women's rights activists, to the modern Civil Rights Movement, individuals and groups have worked diligently to make changes they viewed as needed in society. Topics related to reform can be some of the most interesting to research.

Revolutions and reform movements often bring about reactions due to their sudden or perceived radical changes. Kentucky has had its fair share of reactions. Ask questions to get at why reactions occurred and why they were important. How did Kentuckians react to desegregation bussing efforts? How did Kentucky coal miners react to unfair labor practices? How did Kentucky African Americans react to their being forced out of Berea College in 1904 by a state law? How did Native Americans react to white settlement in frontier Kentucky?

Potential Kentucky connections to "Revolution, Reaction and Reform in History" include but are certainly not limited to:

- Revolution - The Battle of Blue Licks
- Revolution - Isaac Shelby
- Revolution - Kentucky's Black Campus Movements in 1960s-1970s
- Revolution - Kentucky's involvement in the 1850 invasion of Cuba
- Revolution - Post-Civil War Readjustment/Reconstruction in Kentucky
- Revolution - Steamboats travel on Kentucky's rivers
- Revolution - Trains in antebellum Kentucky

- Reform - Cassius Marcellus Clay, Kentucky Emancipationist
- Reform - The New Deal in Kentucky
- Reform - Laura Clay and Women's Rights Movement
- Reform - Madeline McDowell Breckinridge, Progressive Reformer and Suffragist
- Reform - 1833 Slave Non-importation Law
- Reform - Slavery Debate in 1849 Kentucky Constitutional Convention
- Reform - The Kentucky Shakers
- Reform - Kentucky Settlement Schools
- Reform - John Marshall Harlan as the Great Dissenter

Reform – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Frankfort March (1964)
Reform - The Freedmen's Bureau in Kentucky
Reform – John G. Fee, Kentucky Abolitionist
Reform – William S. Bailey, Kentucky Abolitionist
Reform - Berea College
Reform - Camp Nelson
Reform - Lyman Johnson and the desegregation of UK
Reform – Frontier Nursing Service
Reform - Whitney M. Young
Reform – The Kentucky Colonization Society
Reform – Delia Webster and Calvin Fairbank
Reform – James G. Birney
Reform – Prohibition and the Kentucky distilling industry
Reform – Robert J. Breckinridge and education in Kentucky

Reaction - Hatfield and McCoy Feud
Reaction - Henry Clay and Compromises
Reaction - Bloody Harlan
Reaction - Battle of Evarts
Reaction - Kentucky at the Battle of New Orleans
Reaction - Kentucky's Attempt at Neutrality in the Civil War
Reaction - The Black Patch Wars
Reaction - TVA Relocations
Reaction - School/Bussing Race Issues in Louisville
Reaction - 1904 Day Law (Educational Segregation)
Reaction - Rowan County War
Reaction - Opposition to the Freedman's Bureau in Kentucky
Reaction – Opposition to Emancipation in Kentucky
Reaction - Strip-mining and Mountain Top Removal
Reaction - Lincoln Institute
Reaction - The Know-Nothing Party in Kentucky
Reaction - The Crittenden Compromise (1860-1861)
Reaction - Bloody Monday (1855)
Reaction – Opposition to Abraham Lincoln in Kentucky
Reaction – Opposition to African American enlistments in Civil War Kentucky
Reaction – Muhammad Ali's Refusal to Enter the Military during Vietnam
Reaction – Gov. William Goebel's assassination
Reaction – Conflict between Native Americans and early Kentucky settlers
Reaction – The Kentucky Resolutions
Reaction – Kentucky's Role in the Battle of New Orleans
Reaction – Cane Ridge Revival
Reaction – Will Lockett riot (1920)
Reaction – New Deal programs in Kentucky
Reaction – Kentuckians and the Battle of the River Raisin
Reaction – Kentucky and the Spanish Conspiracy